

*Arizona Forest Health Council*  
Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body  
Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE –**  
***Arizona Forest Health Council***

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Arizona Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Arizona Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

**Arizona Association of Counties Board Room**  
**Thursday, May 8, 2014**  
**1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**Tele Conference Number: 1-877-820-7831**  
**Passcode: 219418#**

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order – 1:00 pm Chair, Scott Hunt**

*Members Present:*

Chair Scott Hunt, Pascal Berlioux, Don Berry, Neil Bosworth, Wally Covington, Robert Davis, Nicole Farr, Bruce Hallin, Kevin Kinsall, Steve Rosenstock and Co-Chair Sue Sitko

*Members via Tel-Conference:*

Steve Gatewood, Supervisor Tommie Martin, Mayor Jerry Nabours and Paul Summerfelt

*Members Absent*

Kent Bushman and Darrell Willis

*Public:*

Jerry Payne, Deputy State Forester, Diane Vosick, ERI NAU, and Patrick Rappold, Arizona State Forestry

Chair Scott Hunt welcomed the Forest Health Council members and guests in attendance.

**2. Approval of the Minutes from the February FHC Meeting ~**

- Bruce Hallin moved for approval; Steve Rosenstock second.
- Minutes were approved.

**3. State Update ~ Scott Hunt**

- Scott informed the Council members on the Forestry related legislative bills and fireworks bills and their final outcome in session. Pascal reported that the transportation bill passed and hoped to use this as a starting point for next session.
- Scott also reviewed the Executive Summary Report that is sent out daily. The report shows that we are below the 20 year average and above last year. We are responding with force. It is critically dry around the state. For reports he is comparing this year with the year of the Rodeo Chediski Fire. Fire restrictions are out statewide except for the Arizona Strip area.
- The 2015 budget gave us \$1.5 million. We are working on a plan for some of the dollars from the top to use for the statewide risk assessment similar to Colorado. State Emergency Council has some unspent monies that we may be able to use for additional projects or add to the risk assessment project.

**4. Statewide Continuing Activity Update**

- **4 FRI** ~ Sue Sitko, Chair; Steve Gatewood, and Pascal Berlioux are on the committee now. The end of July there will be a consultation with Fish & Wildlife Services. This past week a review team was in from Washington DC. They drove to Pinetop and met with stakeholders. Neil reported that the meeting went well. Implementation issues (roads, complexity of industry) were discussed with the

operators. The Campbell Group is getting task orders issued. Rob Davis reported that he felt they gained a lot of knowledge.

- Mayor Nabours asked what Good Earth is going to do with the material. Request was made to have them speak at the next 4FRI meeting. Neil stated that the task order had been issued. Discussion took place on when Good Earth was going to implement task order and where does the wood go.
- **Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project** ~ Paul Summerfelt to give an update on the watershed project. The three agreements are ready for city council – boundary line surveys with Forest Service; Coconino County partnering and the state equestrian parcel. The monitoring plan continues to be developed on fire behavior; hydrology; and social. MSO habitat monitoring; noxious weed; and precipitation station. Cost accounting with NAU on the Dry Lake Hills area is taking place. DEIS review will be on May 12. Public comments will be on June 1. City crews began doing work in Schultz Creek on a 4FRI task order. Implementation on the Prescribe Fire Council will take place in fall.
- Paul reported that since January 2013 they have seen \$1.1 million of outside funding from the USFS, thru a number of entities and homeowner associations. A report is prepared every six months.
- **Forest Health Funding Strategies Workshop** ~ Bruce Hallin reported that the workshop that was held on May 1 was a continuation from the forum in October. This workshop was to look at where dollars were needed and options to look at. There were 116 registered and 110 attended. There was good mix with Forest Service, industry, academic, county, city, and state in attendance. Prescott group stated that the cooperators needed biomass training. 4FRI area discussion included revenue bonds and water user fees. Flood control mitigation was also a discussion topic.
- Arizona Forward will be forming a committee on Forest Restoration and will be hosting a luncheon on July 25. SRP developed a document Why Care. Another workshop will be scheduled for later in the fall or spring.
- **White Mountains – WMSC and Bridging the Gap** ~ Sue Sitko reported that they are asking to keep them in wood supply. White Mountain area has increased the understanding to the businesses and the need materials to keep operating. They can work until May. There is more equipment than people available to work.

#### **5. Farm Bill Insect & Disease Designations ~ Scott Hunt**

- Thirty-six states submitted information. There was not much of a timeframe to prepare the information. There is no money attached to this and Arizona submitted its priority list. The appropriation is being done at the Washington Office level.

#### **6. Forest Product Lab Wood Energy Grant ~ Patrick Rappold**

- Patrick discussed the draft of the Wood Energy Grant. The final is due by May 20. This is a joint submittal from NAU School of Forestry, State Forestry and SRP. He would like you input on the grant. Pascal stated that Eastern Arizona Counties will do a letter of support.

#### **7. Arizona Success Story Sub-Committee ~ Scott Hunt**

- Scott stated that he would like to do a brochure similar to the SRP brochure. Include in it Healthy Forest Incentives and look at the statewide plan when completing the brochures.
- Subcommittee members needed.

#### **8. Wildland Fire Risk Assessment – Fuel Treatment Prioritization ~ Scott Hunt**

- Scott stated that with money from the budget he will be implementing a program similar to Colorado. Included will be the fire map project and also fuels projects. This needs to be a statewide picture of the worst and best areas.
- With the mitigation of this program he is seeking input on state and private lands and look at other models. He is also looking for assistance on how we as an organization are doing fuels treatment on state lands.
- Neil reported that there is going to be a new system on prioritizing fuels treatments across the country. The pilot work will begin within the next six months. It will be a process oriented system.

- Steve Rosenstock, Sue Sitko (or a representative from TNC), Pascal Berlioux, Bruce Hallin and Nicole Farr will assist.

**9. Call to the Public**

- Jerry Payne reported that the Community Forestry Committee will have the five year plan completed by late summer. The urban side of forestry would also like to be involved.
- Kevin Kinsall reported that the Western Governor Association meeting is schedule for the second week in June in Colorado.

**11. Meeting Schedule and Locations**

- The next meeting will be July 10, 2014 in Flagstaff or Show Low. A field trip will be planned.

Pascal Berlioux made a motion to adjourn. Bruce Hallin seconded motion. Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm

*This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as results of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further considerations and decisions at a later date.*

Dated this May 13, 2014  
Arizona Forest Health Council  
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>